

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

The typographical error, "stationery" found in claims 1,³~~2~~ and 10 is to be replaced with -stationary--.

9.E.
5/17/00

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior art discloses or renders as obvious, in combination with the rest of the limitations set forth in claim 1, a storage tank having two vents closed to ambient atmosphere, and introducing through at least one of the vents with an inert gas to maintain internal pressure between the external floating roof and tank wall while removing vapor through one of the vents transporting the vapor to an oxidizer prior to emitting the vapor to ambient atmosphere, while essentially removing all liquid from the tank. The vents used in the Lee patent, allow water to drain into the tank after the level of the liquid has dropped below the point where the roof becomes stationary, to prevent damage to the roof. Laverman et al. discloses the use of vents to transport the vapor to an oxidizer prior to emitting the vapor to ambient atmosphere, but does not disclose a floatable external roof.